

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, May 23. 1706.

I Confess my self at a Loss, how to proceed in my Remarks on the present Prospect of Affairs ; — for really this Crowd of Successes is too much for us. We ought to husband our Accounts a little; this Battle in *Flanders* would have serv'd us very well for a Fortnight, and now here comes more Victories on the Heels of one another, what must we do?

I make no question of the Truth of our Accounts from *Barcelona*, sent to her Majesty by Sir *Stafford Fairborne*; that the Siege is rais'd, and the *French* beaten ; but more of that hereafter.

Nor do I make any question, but the *French* had Intelligence, how things went there, and that this was the reason of their pushing for a Battle in *Flanders* ; that if

possible, they might have given the Duke one Brush there, before the News of the Successes in *Spain* reach'd us ; and that having but a little the Advantage there, their Superiority on the *Rhine*, and in *Italy*, might have made amends for the Disgrace receiv'd there, and secur'd the recovering that Loss.

But Providence has found them other Employment, and new Wonders are to take up our Thoughts.— The *French* drawn out in a fair Field, a thing they were very seldom known to do, beaten with all possible Disadvantages, entirely broken and left, and which End of the Description to begin at, I hardly know.

Who can draw the Picture of the *French* Generals, confiding in their Numbers, encouraging

courag'd with a Prospect of Success, and Hopes of having now an Opportunity to revenge the Disgrace of *Hochstet*, and retrieve the Honour of their Troops; with that Assurance they drew out to fight almost 15000 Men more in Number, than the Confederate Army; how they thought us surpris'd, as not being join'd by the *Danes*.

How proportion'd to these Confidences must be the Confusion they are now in, to see themselves ruin'd by plain fighting in the fair Field; tho' fighting at least five to four; they must now own the Superiority of the Confederate Troops to even their Household, which now could not stand before us.

Nor is it unworthy our Remark, that the *English* and *Dutch* Troops only had the Honour of this Victory; no foreign Troops, the *Danes* excepted, being in the Fight; who will tell us now, the *Dutch* Horse won't fight, and call their Forces Skellums and Runaways? The *French* have found it otherwise.

In King *William's* Time, we us'd to say, the King wanted only to come to a fair pitch'd Battle with the *French*; but they were always fain to fight upon Disadvantages; now that Desire has been answer'd, and the *French* gave us a fair Day for it; and saving their Superiority of Numbers, the Advantages of Ground seem'd to be equal.

It is a Battle big with Victory, fruitful in Consequences, and if well improv'd, *Spain* and *Flanders* may soon run an equal Fate; Time also gives the Duke unusual Advantage for the improving this Victory, the early Season of it, being at the Beginning of the Campaign, makes it prodigiously advantageous; for now the Duke has the whole Year before him to turn his successful Hand, which way he sees fit, and perhaps to push the Enemy upon yet farther Extremities, than we imagine.

What may not be the Consequences of this Victory, even in every part of the *French* Affairs, and as it comes in Conjunction with the Advances we are making in *Spain*, what may we not hope for from it?

How will the Account of it cherish and enliven the flaming Soul of the great Prince *Eugene*, the Second and Partner in Glory with the Duke of *Marlborough*! what new Fires will it kindle in his Breast, and fill him with Emulation to give the *French* a Blow proportionably equal to it in Italy!

How must this revive the Heart of the Duke of *Savoy*, who finding himself oppress'd and surrounded with the potent and numerous Armies of *France*, saw himself in a manner shut up in the Gates of his Capital City, and in Danger of being entirely reduc'd!

How must this New's enflame the forward young Courage of *Charles III.* and make him push hard at a General Revolution in *Spain*; that he may enjoy the general Suffrage of the People to his Authority, and derive his Crown from the universal Assent of the Inhabitants, a Title superiour to all other Sorts of Human Claim, and by Consequence to the (*I think imperfect*) Donation of his Father the Emperor!

How must this influence the *Hungarian* Treaty, and incline Prince *Ragotski* to make Peace with the Emperor, finding his Supporter and Ally no longer likely to be in a Condition to assist him!

How must it comfort the Emperor, under the disconsolate Circumstance he appear'd in, having *N. Ws.* coming one on the Neck of another, of the growing Power of the *French* pushing both his Generals, the Prince of *Baden* and Prince *Eugene*, out of all their Posts, which they had secur'd last year, and rendering their Success of this Summers Campaign very doubtful!

And how must the Surprise of this glorious Action fill the *French* Affairs with the utmost Confusion! how must it represent his fading Glory in its Climacterical Position, and open a Prospect to his intire Reddition, if not prev. need by a speedy Restoration of his usurp'd Possessions, and disgorging all the Encroachments he has made upon his Neighbours?

I am not for lessening his Power, I have all along thought the magnifying the Strength of our Adversary to its due and full ex-

extent; the trueſt way to awaken us to a needful Vigour in oppoſing him, and a watchful Regard to our own Safety. I always ſaid the *French* were great, but not invincible; I begg'd this Work with deſcribing their Power, and I hope to end it with a Deſcription of the breaking that Power. I endeavour'd to convince thoſe People of their Error, who were always deſcribing the *French* as inferior to us, weak in Power, impoveriſh'd and diſ-peopled in their Country, driven to their laſt Shifts, that could neither have Men, Money, or Horſes to carry on the War: Now we have ſeen this ſecond War carried on with a Train of Succeſſes; and yet ſo much had the *French* got Start of us every where in ſeizing *Spain*, that all the Advantage of a Summers Succeſs has been recover'd in a Winters Preparation; and we found the *French* Affairs pick'd up again ſo whole after the Battle of *Blenheim*, that ſaving *Landau*, we ſaw no Breach in their Affairs; all that Victory having only ſerv'd to recover, what they had gain'd, and to ſave the whole Confederacy from Deſtruction.

Juſt thus we found our ſelves again at the Time of this Victory; the Juncture ſeem'd to be form'd for aggrandizing the *French*, and unravelling all the Confederacy. The Advantages the *French* had gain'd on the *Rhine* and in *Italy*, were ſuch, that could they have given you one Blow in *Flanders*, they had brought the Confederacy to a very tottering Condition.

The Conſequence of a Blow here muſt have been at leaſt the recalling the *Lunenburgh*, *Heſſian* and *Pruſſian* Troops from the *Rhine*, and leaving *Monſieur Villars* a clear Stage, and a weak unſupplied, unfurniſh'd Army of the Circles, and diſagreeing Princes of *Germany*, to fight with. It had left *Mareſchal Marſin* a fair Field on the *Moſelle*, when he had no Enemy to oppoſe him; and it had tied the Duke of *Marlborough* down in *Flanders*, to recollect his ſcatter'd Troops, and fortify ſome Poſt of Advantage, to hinder the *French* from penetrating the *Dutch* Frontiers.

It had certainly check'd our Imbarka-

tions, and lay'd aſleep the Project of our Fleet, which are like a threatening Cloud big with Thunders, that no one yet knows where it ſhall break, and on which Part of the World the Storm will fall.

It would take up a Hiſtory, and extend this Paper beyond its true Bounds, to enter into all the ſad Conſequences, a Victory on the other ſide would have produc'd in the World, and particularly at home; where ſome malignant Spirits have uſes to make of publick Diſaſters, which the World are not aware of, and which all their Malice notwithstanding this Paper, will always continue to deteſt and expoſe.

I need not tell the World who are pleas'd, and who mourn at our Victories abroad. But I may aſſure ſome Gentlemen, that nothing like Victory over the *French*, weakens, leſſens and diſcourageſ our Party at home; under the Diſcouragement of the publick Succeſſes, many daily come off from the Principles of *Jacobiniſm* and *High-Church*, and had not the Duke a conſtant Train of Succeſſes attending his Undertakings, the Brigues of a Party to ſeparate and divide the Affections of thoſe at Court, who eſpouſe equally the Intereſt of their Country, might perhaps have too great a Proſpect of weakening the Hands of both, and open a Door for reſtoring a Party in *England*, whoſe Intereſt has always been rais'd by our Miſfortunes, and ſunk by our Succeſſes.

WHIGGS, that is, REBELS, ſays the *Rebearſal*, will riſe and fall in *England*, as the Hands of this *Moses* are held up, or let fall in his Battles againſt the *French*; for if all thoſe, we call *Whiggs*, are by this Man that calls himſelf a *Church of England* Man, eſteem'd Rebels; it is very proper for thoſe Gentlemen call'd *Whiggs* to reflect, what Treatment they ought to expect, if ever that Party gets the upper Hand in *England*, who now pretend to plead for the Church.

I wonder this Gentleman will not oblige us with a Hiſtory of the Rebellion of the *Whiggs*; or prove them Rebels by the Help of ſome of that Sophiſtry, by which he is endeavouring to prove the Memorial

rial was writ by the Whiggs in the way of Irony; or that the Review writes against the Church of *England*, as such, because he has complain'd of the Looseness, both in the Tongues and Manners of great Numbers of the Inferiour Clergy against the Government, and against their own Brethren, against the QUEEN, the moderate Clergy, and the Bishops.

When he will prove, that Whiggs and Rebels are the same, that the Terms are synonymous, and ought to be understood for the same Persons; I shall farther undertake the Vindication of the Review, from his foul and scandalous Asperision of writing against the Church.

TO the Gentleman, who sent the Author of this Paper, a Sum of Money to be dispos'd of in Charity, as long since as *January* last; this is to give him Notice, That his Money to the utmost Farthing, and a small Sum added to it by another Gentleman, mov'd by his Example, has been faithfully distributed to thankful miserable Objects, such as the Goodness of his Design intended and directed. That Vouchers for every Payment, together with the Circumstances of the Persons to whom, and Recommendations of Persons by whom, are carefully taken by me, and preserv'd for his View, whenever he pleases to examine them, or for any body he shall please to appoint.

Among the rest of the miserable Objects reliev'd by his Charity, that unhappy Person Mr. *Everet*, who afterwards stabb'd himself in the Field, by *Cambray* House, was one; and I am assur'd the Relief he had of this Gentleman's Charity, caused him to adjourn that terrible Execution near three Weeks.

I also take leave to assure this Gentleman, that this Advertisement had been sooner put in; but that tho' the Money was immediately distributed, as Objects presented; yet some of the Vouchers happen'd not to be obtain'd early enough; for which Delay I ask his Pardon; his Bounty is a valuable

and Christian Act, a great many distress'd Families bless him for it, tho' unknown; and I thus give him Thanks for it in their Names; and that he may still find such an Increase upon his honest Industry, as may excite the Continuation of his Charity to the poor, and that more may be mov'd by his Example, is the sincere Prayer of

his faithful Almoner,

D. F.

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To which is added a Map of *Catalonia*. London, Printed for *Jessery Wale*, in *St. Paul's Church-Yard*, and sold by *John Nutt*, near *Stationers-Hall*.